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ABSTRACT

This book implies that other social studies textbooks lack the content that K-3 students need to develop basic social understandings, despite the fact this is one of the goals of most state and district curriculum guides. The volume offers an alternative or an enhancement to the textbook. The book provides units structured around powerful ideas, developed in depth with applications to life. This is the second in a three volume series in which the authors present instructional units on cultural universals for the primary grades. The focus is on communication, transportation, and family living. In addition to reaffirming current student knowledge, the units help educators teach about the cultural universals unfamiliar to students, develop connections to help students transform scattered bits of information into a network of integrated knowledge, and guide students in applying their knowledge to their lives outside of school. The units reflect the purposes and goals of social studies, but they do include some science content. They also integrate language arts by including writing assignments and reading and discussion of children's literature. (BT)

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